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C O N F I D E N T I A L TIRANA 000776

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DEPT FOR EUR/SCE (BENEDICT), NEA/IR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/21/2016
TAGS: [KNNP](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [IR](#) [EU](#) [AORC](#)
SUBJECT: ALBANIA ON P5+1 INCENTIVE PACKAGE FOR IRAN

REF: STATE 119436

Classified By: Ambassador Marcie B. Ries, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Ambassador met with Foreign Minister Besnik Mustafaj July 21 to brief him on the P5 1 incentive package for Iran. Mustafaj said the GoA shared U.S. and EU concern about Iran's nuclear ambitions and agreed that Iran must suspend enrichment-related activity immediately and respond positively to the package. Mustafaj said he was following the issue closely and had told IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei in their April 2006 meeting that Albania stood ready to assist in the process in whatever way it could.

¶2. (C) Mustafaj said the GoA would try to maintain contact with Iran and use every possible opportunity to send the international community's message to Iran. He noted that the current Albanian Ambassador in Ankara, who covers Iran, was due to depart soon but had never presented his credentials in Tehran. He said this was a mistake and the next Ambassador would present his credentials in Tehran. Mustafaj also said Minister of Economy Genc Ruli was planning to visit Iran some time in the next year, but he added the trip was not yet firm. Ambassador said Iranian acceptance of the P5 1 package would provide a favorable atmosphere for Ruli's visit.

¶3. (C) MFA staff told us separately that EU-3 ambassadors had already briefed the MFA on the contents of the package and urged Albania to encourage the Iranians to accept. (Note: Iran has an Ambassador in Tirana who is quite active. Unlike his predecessor, he is a regular at national day celebrations and other activities of the diplomatic community. End Note.)
RIES